

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Karen Leanne Brown et al. : Art Unit: *One andt*
Application No.: To Be Assigned : Examiner: *4/a*
Filed: Herewith :
FOR: NONWOVEN WEB :
1-15-02
AS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 26, with the following paragraph:

A1
The non-woven web may be made by a single individual process or by adapting a continuous manufacturing process, such as paper making. In both cases the fibres (long and short) are dispersed in solution, preferably water, to form a slurry. Also added to the slurry are one or more polymers (the "first polymer"), preferably hydrophilic polymers, for example polyvinylalcohol (PVA). The first polymer may be in the form of fibres. Once the long and short fibres and the first polymer are uniformly dispersed in the liquid, the liquid is either drained in the case of a single individual process or the fibres are formed into a continuous structure by the controlled deposition of the slurry onto a moving bed mesh. In such a wet laid process, the longer fibres, which exceed the thickness of the final structure typically by at least an order of magnitude, are pulled down by the water flow during the filtration process to lie in the x-y plane. Because of the density of